

January 3, 2005

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2005 JAN -5 AM 9:53  
T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM

Re: Docket #04-00166 and #04-00211

Dear Sir or Madame:

I am a family member of an incarcerated person. Families not only financially and emotionally support our incarcerated loved one but also our children, parents, and extended families just as families who do not deal with incarceration. Frequently the travel distance to the prison and cost to visit is so great that phone calls and letters may be our only contact for many months. Additional costs have risen since families have lost the ability to provide necessities to inmates, as inmates must now purchase everything from a general provider. If an inmate has the ability to earn a wage it is so minimal to not cover the costs of incidentals. The family must make up the difference.

In order to maintain the healthiest family environment possible it is critical for families to talk regularly. Children need to hear the voice of a parent, brother or sister, or grandparent. They need to hear the advice, the concern, and the loneliness only a voice can convey. They need to discuss issues only family can understand. It is important to maintain this connection at a reasonable rate.

I would also encourage the TRA to implement calls made to cellular phones. Competition has driven the cost and convenience of cellular service so low many people no longer have land lines. The current system forces the family to have a land line and be at home at a specific time when the inmate can call. This adds further pressure on the family in case a call is missed or the prison phones are not operating. Call quality is also a big issue. Frequently phones do not work, there is static, calls are dropped and must be redialed at additional cost to the family.

Families of Tennessee prisoners are the forgotten victims of crime. Innocent of any wrong doing, they too often suffer in silence. It is therefore very important that when elected or appointed government officials hear of their concerns they should know that it is an important issue that can affect the well being of the family.

As a part of your fulfilling the Mission of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority I urge you to strongly consider the impact your decision on docket #04-00166 and #04-00211 will have on children, families, friends, and community-based organizations that promote healthy family bonds with inmates. Please vote NO to higher costs and shorted calls from a jail or prison in Tennessee.

Sincerely,



Mary Jane Van Hoesen  
1810 Northwood Drive  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37923

Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243

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To Whom It May concern,

I wish to speak against any rate increases for calls made from Prisons in Tennessee. I am married to a woman in prison and am active trying raise her two children and prevent them from following her footsteps. It is vital these children receive regular communication from their mother, both for guidance and for emotional security.---

It will happen that the phone calls are daily. This is usually when a crisis arises and the children need help and reinforcement. If the State is serious about helping children of prisoners then please see to it that telephone contact is available and cheap. May I add, when I am in Washington on business, a phone call from my wife in the Tennessee Prison For Women costs \$1.00/minute. It think that is a bit excessive.

Sincerely



Tim McDonald  
205 West Paris St.  
Huntingdon, TN 38344